



Captain Ernest L. Valdes, USN

Commander

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, San Diego

Captain Ernest L. Valdes is the Commanding Officer of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, San Diego (SSC San Diego). SSC San Diego is the Navy's research, development, test and evaluation, engineering and fleet support center for command, control and communication systems and ocean surveillance.

Captain Valdes, an Engineering Duty Officer and Acquisition Professional, reported to SSC San Diego in June, 1999, from his previous assignment as Deputy Commander for Engineering (Chief Engineer) at the Port Hueneme Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme, California.

As Chief Engineer, he was responsible for combat/weapon systems in-service engineering, test and evaluation, and Fleet support for the entire surface Navy. Before reporting to Port Hueneme, Captain Valdes was in the Pentagon on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, where he was the Secretariat Action Officer for five major programs: DDG 51 Aegis Program, DD 21 Future Surface Combatant, CVN Aircraft Carrier Program CV(X) Future Carrier, and the Arsenal Ship Program.

Prior to the Pentagon, Captain Valdes served as the Test & Evaluation and Trials Manager at Naval Sea Systems Command (PMS 400) for the USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51)-Class Aegis Destroyer Program, where he contributed to the successful test and delivery of seven DDG 51-Class destroyers, and planned and executed the shock trial in USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53). Before his tour at PMS 400, Captain Valdes was the Combat Systems/C4I Officer on the Washington Board of Inspection and Survey, where he conducted test and sea trials on more than 50 surface ships.

Captain Valdes also completed tours at Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center, Vallejo, California, and at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command as the Satellite Systems Engineer for UHF and EHF/Milstar satellite communications (SATCOM) programs. During these tours, he led the teams that conducted successful initial operational capability implementation of the UHF DAMA SATCOM system in the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the first installation and at-sea testing of the EHF SATCOM system in USS David R. Ray (DD 971), and the ground-based testing of the first Milstar Satellite EDM Payload at TRW in Los Angeles.

Captain Valdes holds a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology, a Master of Science in electrical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, and an MBA degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He is also a graduate of the Defense Systems Management College.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (with three gold stars), Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and Meritorious Unit Commendation. Captain Valdes also received the 1996 DoD Value Engineering Award from the Secretary of Defense.